

DATE

Mr. Chad Major,  
Fire Chief, Baton Rouge Fire Department  
8011 Merle Gustafson Drive  
Baton Rouge, LA 70807

**Re: Louisiana Board of Ethics Docket No. 2021-988  
Advisory Opinion-Disqualification Plan**

Dear Chief Major:

The Louisiana Board of Ethics ("Board"), at its January 7, 2022 meeting, considered your request to approve a disqualification plan regarding matters that may arise out of the employment of Jerome Robertson, a Fire Services and Supply Technician in the Baton Rouge Fire Department's Special Services Division, where his brother, Jared Robertson, serves as the Assistant Chief of Special Services.

**FACTS PROVIDED**

Jared Robertson was hired in 1995 by the Baton Rouge Fire Department as a Firefighter and promoted in December 2017 to Assistant Chief of Special Services, his current position. As Assistant Chief of Special Services, Jared Robertson is responsible for supervising Fire Services and Supply Technicians. Jerome Robertson, the biological brother of Jared Robertson, has been employed with the Baton Rouge Fire Department since 1996 and currently serves as a Fire Services and Supply Technician. As the Fire Chief, you have submitted a disqualification plan that indicates Jared Robertson will not supervise Jerome Robertson. To avoid any potential conflict, Scott Pertuis, the Chief of Special Services, has been assigned as Jerome Robertson's supervisor.

## LAW

**La. R.S. 42:1112B(1)** prohibits a public servant from participating in a transaction involving the governmental entity in which, to his actual knowledge, any member of his immediate family has a substantial economic interest.

**La. R.S. 42:1112C** allows a disqualification plan to be developed in accordance with rules adopted by the Board to remove a public servant from participating in transactions that would otherwise present violations of La. R.S. 42:1112 of the Code of Governmental Ethics.

## ANALYSIS

Based on the information provided, Jared Robertson would not supervise his brother, Jerome Robertson. Jared Robertson's supervisor, Scott Pertuis, Chief of Special Services, would be designated as Jerome Robertson's supervisor.

## CONCLUSION

The Board concluded, and instructed me to inform you, that the disqualification plan submitted by you complies with La. R.S. 42:1112C and the Louisiana Board of Ethics' rules.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts as presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Code of Governmental Ethics. Please note that the Board issues no opinion as to past conduct and that the Board's expressed opinion is limited to an examination of the Code of Governmental Ethics, the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act, the Lobbyist Disclosure Acts, and the conflict of interest provisions in the gaming laws.

Sincerely,

## LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

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Gregory L. Thibodeaux  
For the Board